



# Island Breeze



News from the Island Creek PTA

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## **February 10: Special PTA Meeting Set to Discuss Fairfax Schools Budget Crisis**

The Fairfax County school system faces a \$176 million deficit for the 2010-11 school year. In response to the projected shortfall, Superintendent Jack Dale has proposed a number of drastic program cuts that would in his words, “*set the school system back 10-15 years,*” and scale back programs that have made our school system a national model for academic excellence. A listing of proposed cuts is available on the PTA website [www.islandcreekpta.org](http://www.islandcreekpta.org) and the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) website <http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2011.htm>. In its summary budget document, FCPS made the following observations, called The Bottom Line:

Without increased funding, we face:

- Decreasing student achievement
- Diminishing academic excellence
- Losing high-caliber teachers
- Eliminating innovative programs
- Not meeting individual student needs
- Tarnishing FCPS’ reputation
- Negatively impacting business relocations



At our last PTA meeting, Ron Fitzsimmons (president of the Mt. Vernon High School Academic Boosters Corp) spoke about joining with other PTAs around the county to adopt a resolution calling for a slight increase in the property tax rate to avert these disastrous program cuts. Several other PTAs have endorsed a resolution that is entitled “Ten Cents Makes Sense,” which calls on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to increase the tax rate by ten cents per \$100 assessed property value. Boosters say that because the average house assessment will decrease in FY 2011, a ten-cent tax rate increase might not increase the average tax bill. More information about the proposal is posted on the PTA website [www.islandcreekpta.org](http://www.islandcreekpta.org).

We need to move quickly because the board of supervisors must advertise the new tax rate on March 9, and once a tax rate is advertised, it cannot be increased. We will hold a special PTA meeting on Wednesday, February 10 at 7:00 PM in the Island Creek Library to discuss the resolution and vote on whether the Island Creek PTA should endorse it. Please attend this important meeting to cast your vote.

## **February 19: BINGO Comes Back to Island Creek**

Are you feeling lucky? Basket Bingo Night is coming back to Island Creek Elementary School next month. The Island Creek PTA is pleased to announce that it will be hosting the popular mid-winter Bingo Bash on Friday, February 19, at 6:00 PM. Vera Bradley bags and Longaberger baskets chocked full of goodies will be the prizes for the lucky (and skilled) Bingo winners, as we put the fun back into fundraising. Please mark your calendars and watch for further news on this event.



## **Creative Crocs: Reflections Award Winners to Be Honored at February 2 PTA Meeting**

Congratulations to all the students who created and submitted creative arts works to the 2009-2010 PTA **Reflections** Program, the PTA's national arts recognition program that has encouraged millions of students across the nation to explore and display their artistic talents during its nearly 40-year history.

Our judges were impressed by the creativity, thoughtfulness, talent and hard work displayed in all of the art, photography and literature entries submitted by Island Creek students.

We are pleased to announce and congratulate the Reflections entries that earned the *Outstanding Interpretation Award*. These projects have been forwarded to the Fairfax County PTA level for the next round of competition.

**Reflections** awards will be presented at the Tuesday, February 2 PTA meeting, at 7:00 PM in the Island Creek Library. Student award winners and their families are cordially invited to attend.

**Visual Arts – Primary:** Amy Johnson

**Visual Arts – Intermediate:** Carmen Mazyck

**Photography – Intermediate:** Carlea Maben

**Photography – Middle:** Celine Mahne

**Literature – Intermediate:** Andi Smith

**Dance Choreography – Intermediate:** Olivia Shipe

We are also pleased to announce the following *Awards of Excellence and Awards of Merit*:

**Literature – Intermediate:** Lydia Endalkachew, Chelsea Ulrich, Richita Bashyal, and Clarissa Skipworth

**Visual Arts – Primary:** Maria Shipe

**Visual Arts – Intermediate:** Sarah Wade, Rachel Wade, Karis Baik, Olivia Shipe, Daija Sykes and Maggie Markon

**Visual Arts – Middle:** Vijay Sood and Brago Aboagye-Nyame

A special **Croc Smile** goes to Denise Bolton for coordinating this outstanding program for our Island Creek students. Please contact Denise @ (703) 372-1016 if you have questions about the **Reflections** award program or the February 2 awards program.



## Looking Back at a Croc Season of Sharing

Although it now seems like a distant memory, the holiday season was at its height just a few weeks ago. Before we get too involved with events of the New Year, we wanted to recognize the outpouring of love and support that came from the Island Creek community to help two local families in need. The Crocodile PTA adopted an Island Creek family and another nearby family and through the generosity of many people, these families enjoyed a brighter holiday season.



A special *Croc Smile* goes out to Cherie Rogers-Mazyck and Lorie Kappeler for coordinating this effort. Cherie braved the massive snowstorm to ensure that the gifts made it to the families in time to celebrate the holidays.

Island Creek's social worker, Renee Toyer, helped the PTA identify the families in need. Following is a note from Renee to the Island Creek community:

*To Our Island Creek Family,*

*I want to take this opportunity to wish you a Happy New Year and to THANK all of you who donated (or organized donations) to our families over the holidays. I was so overwhelmed by the quick, willing responses and the sacrifice of your personal time and monetary resources. The families received some lovely thoughtful gifts and they were surprised by your generosity!*

*All of them were very appreciative!*

*Renee Toyer, MSW LCSW  
School Social Worker  
Island Creek*

In case you were wondering, here is a list of the items that were donated to the families by the Island Creek community:

### **Family #1 (Island Creek Elementary School)**

Cherokee Burgundy/Black Coat  
Long Sleeve Knit Shirt  
Sweat Shirt  
Steel Tek Master Motorized Set (499 Pieces)  
Radio Control "Trak Attack"  
Glow In The Dark Vectron (Air Hogs)  
Radio Control Stunt Car & Batteries  
Transformer AutoBot  
High School Musical 2 DVD Game  
Pink Grapefruit Toiletry Set  
Soap, Shower Smoothie, & Lip Gloss  
Tooth Brushes, Tooth Paste & Deodorant  
Salon Items (Nails & Toes)  
Shoppers Gift Card - \$25.00  
2 Target Gift Cards - \$25.00/Each  
Domino's Pizza Gift Card - \$20.00

Regal Entertainment Gift Card - \$30.00  
American Express Gift Card - \$50.00

### **Family #2 (Kingstowne Community)**

Pink/Brown Coat  
Turquoise Coat, Scarf, & Gloves  
Blue Jeans & Shirt  
Candy Land Game  
Happy Hearts Bead Set  
Fashion Polly (Travel Size)  
Stuffed Bear & Candy Cane  
101 Piece Art Set  
Princess Storybook & Craft Kit  
Dotza Color Pens  
Cheetah Girl Aqua Doll  
Rose Art - Sand Art Jewelry  
Rose Art - Musical Chimes  
Knit Critters  
Kids Baking Set

Kids Design Clock  
Fur Real Friend (Newborn Puppy)  
Mini Plus Dog (Dotty Poodle)  
Flower Fashion Book & Flower Press

### **Other Donated Items**

Orange Coat (Size 4T)  
Red/Blue Plaid Jacket (Size 4/5)  
Pink Dress  
White Sun Dress (Size 4)  
Shorts & Jeans (Size 4T/5)  
Steel Tek Master Motorized Set (499 Pieces)  
Kids Baking Set  
Gray Fleece (Size Medium)  
Lamaze Touch & Kick Butterfly  
Care Bears Book Collection  
Thomas & Friends (Percy & Thomas)  
Cranium Matching Madness  
Dr. Seuss Books

## Croc Gear: You've Got the Spirit and We've Got the Wear

Spring break is just around the corner, so make sure you have plenty of *Croc Gear* spirit wear to show that you are true to your school. *Croc Gear* adds sizzle at the beach, and it conquers the biggest moguls on the slopes. *Croc Gear* coordinator Coleen Murray is pleased to report that she has a full inventory of children's and adult sizes for all *Croc Gear* T's, shorts and sweatshirts, so you can order today and wear tomorrow. The *Croc Gear* collection also includes hats, magnets and string backpacks too. Please contact Coleen at [CMurray341@aol.com](mailto:CMurray341@aol.com) with questions, or if you wish to place an order.



## Croc Trot 5K Road Race Coming May 1

Legends were made last June as nearly 150 runners blazed to glory in the first *Croc Trot* 5K race. The Island Creek PTA is planning to host its second community-wide *Croc Trot* 5K race on Saturday, May 1. Assistant Principal Mike "The Road Warrior" Macrina stunned the field last year with a first place finish in the teacher/staff division, and he has vowed to take on all comers again this spring.

In order for the race of this size to succeed, we will need plenty of volunteer help. If you are interested in lending a hand, please contact PTA President Lisa Jacobs at [icptapres@cox.net](mailto:icptapres@cox.net) for additional information.



## PTA Website: Keeping Up on Breaking News

The Island Creek PTA website [www.islandcreekpta.org](http://www.islandcreekpta.org) is humming with activity, as Webmaster Terri Maben posts all of the news on PTA activities. Visit the website whenever you need to find out something about one of our many activities.

## Upcoming Events on the PTA Schedule

PTA Meeting	February 2
Special Budget PTA Meeting	February 10
Vera Bradley/Longaberger Bingo	February 19
Box Top Collection Day	February 19
Croc Trot 5K and Croc Crawl	May 1



## Next PTA Meeting Set for February 2

The next Island Creek PTA meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 2, at 7:00 PM, in the Island Creek Library. Please join us in honoring award winners from this year's *Reflections* program. Attending PTA meetings is a great way to keep up on events at school and all of the activities of the Island Creek PTA.

## Special PTA Meeting on Budget Problems Set for February 10 at 7pm

Please plan to attend this special PTA meeting to discuss the Fairfax County Public Schools budget the "Ten Cents Makes Sense" resolution.